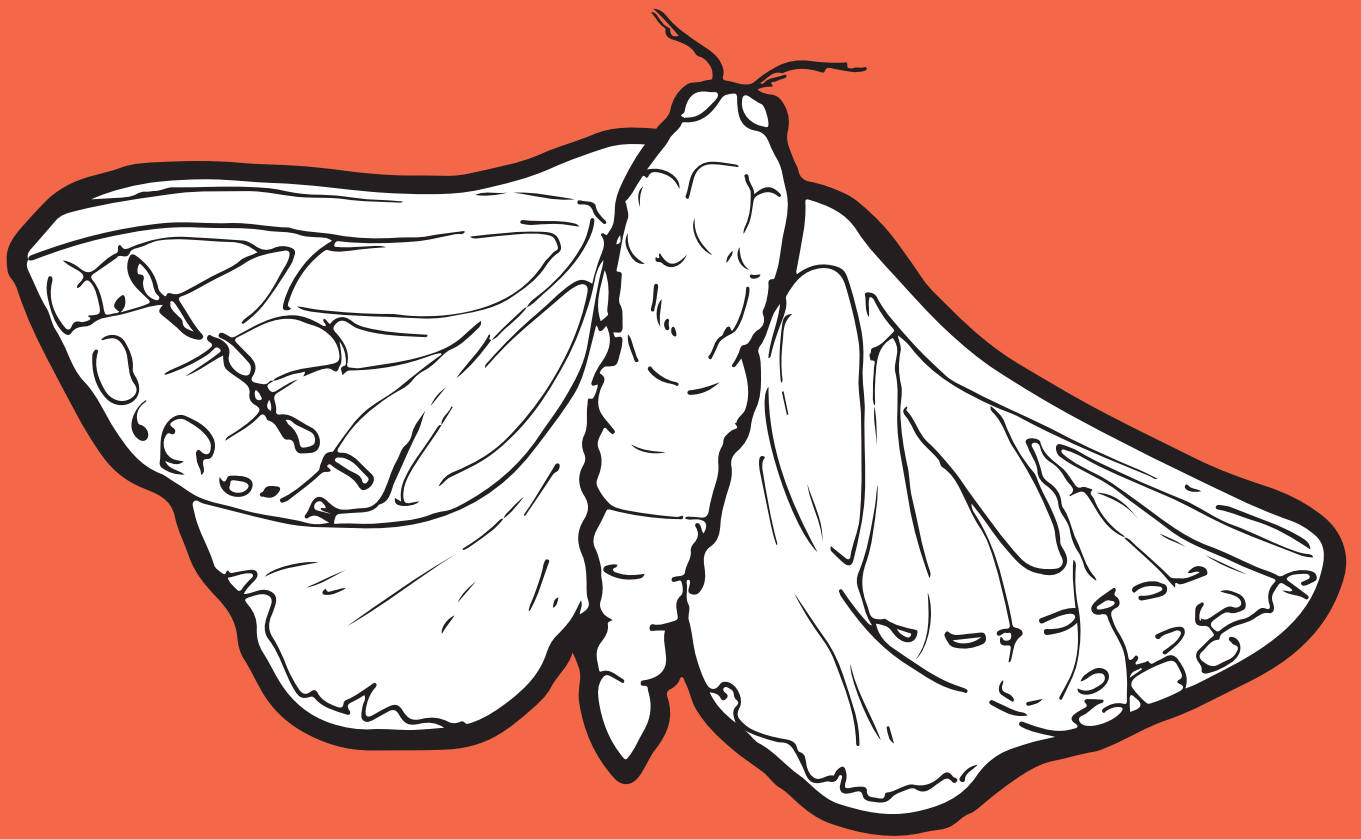


Auckland Zoo Education Pack

ECE



Theme: Bugs

Zoo Lesson plan

Theme: Early Childhood (ages 0-4) **BUGS**

What will I learn: We share our world with a variety of important insects that are sometimes found in our gardens.

Inspire

Find out about some of our special bugs here at Auckland Zoo!

You can learn about the [bizarre and beautiful stick insects](#), the [strangely beautiful spiders](#), or a [very special insect!](#)

Listen to a story about [ants](#).

Learn a new māori song about a butterfly [Pūrerehua](#).

Create

Make a [weta hotel](#) for your locals

Make a [butterfly](#) to hang up in the window, you could even work with others to create a chain of butterflies!

Print out '**Colour in Bugs**' and decorate! (resource attached).

Explore

What bugs can you find at home? Use our [Backyard Bug Hunt](#) to get you started. What type of bug are you looking at?

Use **What's the Difference? Spiders vs Insects** to learn how to identify spiders and insects. (resource attached).

Bugs come in all shapes (and sizes!). [Here are a few](#) from Maanaki Whenua that you might see in your gardens.

Make a [natural insect artwork](#) using materials found in your backyard or neighbourhood. To make this even more challenging you can try to create a native insect and then share some interesting facts along with your creative artwork photo.

Reflect

Bugs do lots of important jobs for us. Some help to grow food, some help to clean up waste, some can even be food for other animals.

Tell your adult your favourite things about bugs. Ask your adult how we can help bugs do their important work.

Act

Take a garden insect census '**How to make a temporary bug habitat**' (resource attached).

Curriculum links:

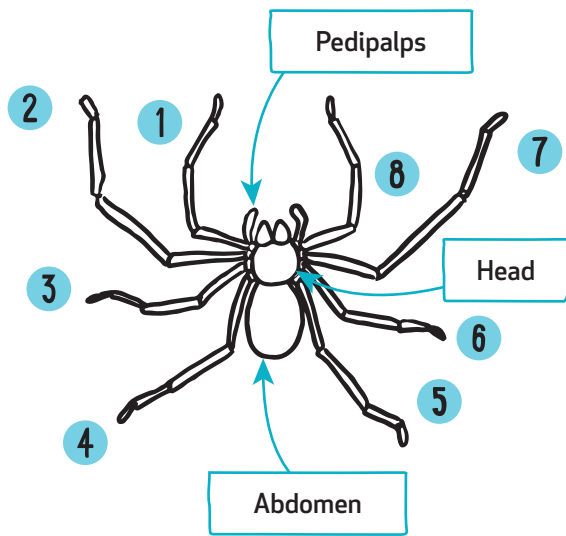
All lessons include aspects of the main strands of Te Whāriki the early childhood curriculum
WELLBEING | MANA ATUA, BELONGING | MANA WHENUA, CONTRIBUTION | MANA TANGATA, COMMUNICATION | MANA REO, EXPLORATION | MANA AOTŪROA

Auckland Zoo
Wildlife conservation
science at work

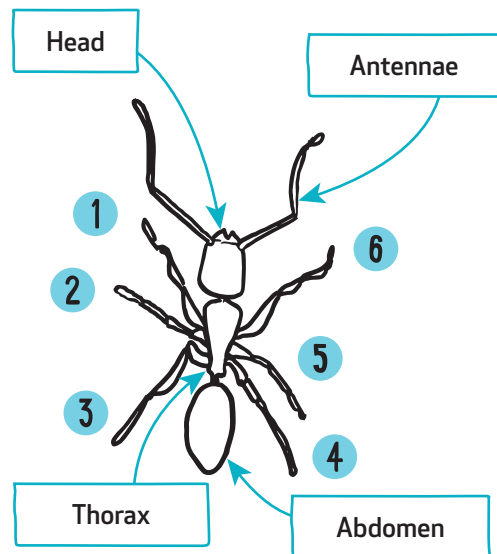
What's the difference?

► Insects vs Spiders

Spider



Insects



Am I looking at a spider or an insect?

How can you tell if you're looking at a spider or an insect?

Follow these steps and use the pictures above to learn how to identify!

- First, we count the legs. Spiders have 8 legs and insects have 6 legs.
Have a go at counting the legs on each picture.
- Next, we count the body parts. Insects have three body parts; a head, a thorax, and an abdomen. Spiders have two body parts; a head and an abdomen.
Practise saying these words with your adult!
- Extra for experts – The scientific name for a spider's head is **cephalothorax**.
Can you say that word out loud?
- Next, we check their heads. Insects have antennae (sometimes called 'feelers' for sensing) on their heads and spiders have pedipalps (like smaller legs used for holding food) **Point to these on the pictures.**

How to make a temporary bug habitat

Crickets, mantises, grasshoppers, beetles

Learning about bugs and how they help our world to flourish is really important but we must be careful to respect them as we learn. Here are some tips for making a responsible habitat to study bugs in.

Step 1 Find a container

Find a clear container with a lid that has holes in it. Your adult might need to help you poke small holes in the lid with a pin so your bugs will be able to breathe but not escape.

Step 2 Gather plants

Fill the container with some fresh grass and leaf material. Plants provide food, climbing structures, and moisture for your insects.

Step 3 Collect bugs

Go outside and find some bugs! Look under rocks, search on trees and bushes, and carefully place them in your prepared container. A good way to collect bugs without harming them is with a paintbrush. Use the brush to gently push bugs into your container.

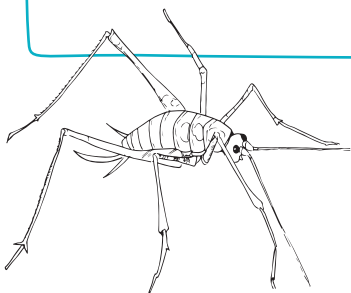
Step 4 Observe

Carefully look at your bug. How many legs does it have? What colour is it? What interesting things does it have on its body? What is it doing? Make sure to record your findings by telling your adults.

Step 5 Release bugs

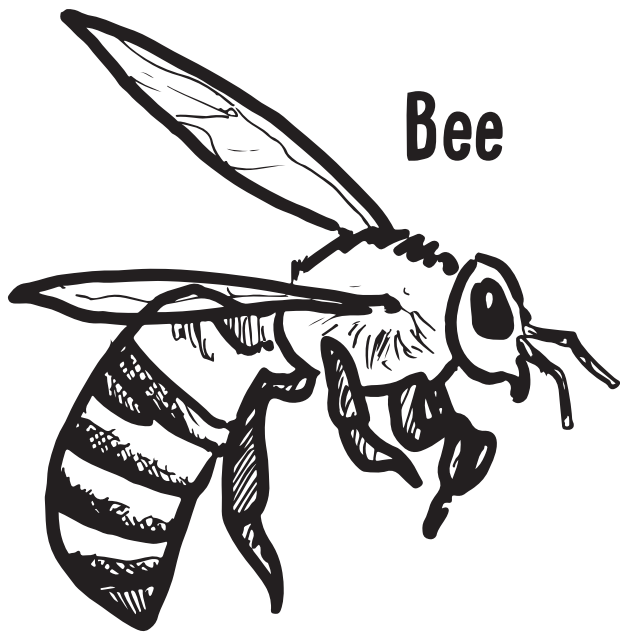
The final thing to do is put the insects back where you found them when you are finished looking at them. An hour should be more than enough time to carefully observe and you can always find new ones if you need. Insects have many important jobs to make our world flourish so let them get to it!

Can you think of anything bugs do that make your world a better place?

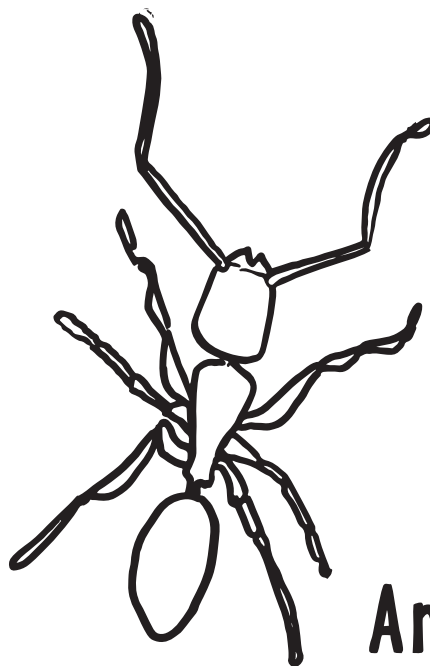


Colour in bugs

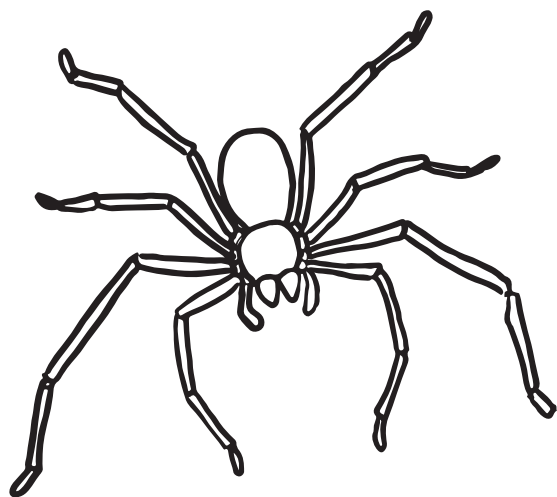
Print and decorate these bugs. Have you seen any of these in your garden?



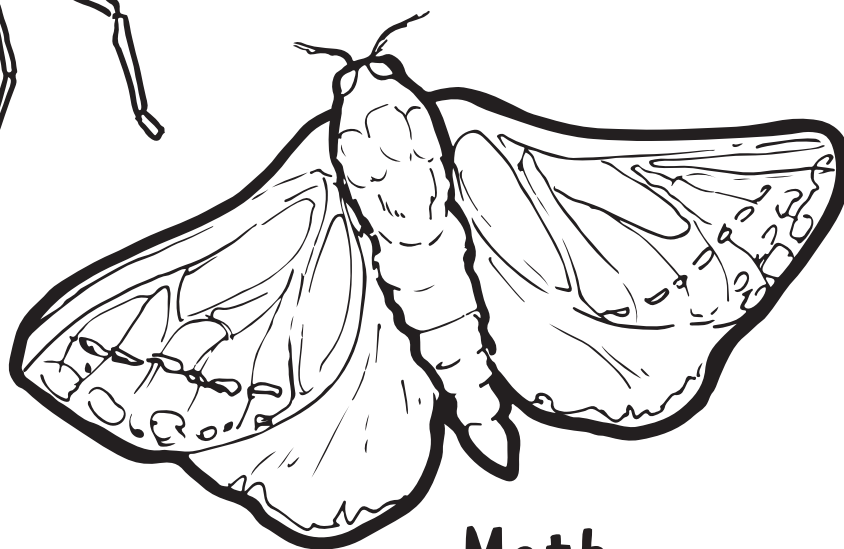
Bee



Ant



Spider



Moth